

strengths, and purpose. The temptation is so easy to say that she will finish Walter's legacy: the truth is that she will improve on it.

LOIS is here not by accident. Walter Capps had a wonderful vision for his district; and for what that meant to all of us. LOIS CAPPS will continue Walter's blessed work, and leave her own imprint on the national scene. She is most welcome here.

Mr. Speaker, the Gentlewoman from California is a most welcome addition to this institution. More than anyone, she is qualified to carry on the legacy of our departed colleague, Walter Capps. But, Mr. Speaker, more than anyone, she is qualified to study and improve upon Walter's legacy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 12, I missed Roll call Vote #50 due to an address I was giving before the National Association of State Boards of Education. Had I been present to vote on final passage of H.R. 2883, the Government Performance and Results Act, I would have cast a no vote.

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last week the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary heard testimony in support of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe's Fiscal Year 1999 budget request. In my written submission for the committee, I shared portions of a poignant letter I recently received from the National Director of the Union of Councils of Soviet Jews, Micah Natfalin. Mr. Natfalin's words and observations are well said and heartfelt, and frankly, he reflects observations about the Commission and its work that many NGOs and public policy analysts have shared with me over the years.

The Commission is aggressive in pursuing its mandate to monitor and encourage compliance with the Helsinki Accords. Through its hearings, public briefings, bilateral communications and encouraging strong statements by the U.S. delegation at OSCE meeting, the Commission encourages compliance through public diplomacy and suasion. The Commission's work is significantly enhanced by the diligent work of non-governmental organizations both here in the United States and in the field. The commitment and effectiveness of the Commission and the staff which are expressed in this letter from the Union of Councils speaks for themselves. Mr. Speaker, these complimentary words about the work of the Commission and particularly the expertise of the staff are not uncommon. For the record, I would like to share excerpts from the March 10 letter.

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews has been a close observer of the Commission's

work since its inception. . . . In the vast desert of policy and think tank meetings, largely concerned with questions of economics, military defense, and environmental protection, the Helsinki Commission stands as the single oasis where those concerned with human rights, and especially the grassroots efforts to support common citizens in their quest to hold their national and local governments accountable to the standards of democracy, rule of law and a civil society, can invariably receive a responsive and understanding hearing.

The power and moral influence of the Helsinki Commission lies in the commitment of its entirely bi-partisan membership in the House and Senate. Its strength and the quality of its assessments derive from one of the most dedicated and professionally expert staffs I have encountered since I was a Congressional staff member in the early 1960s. . . . The Helsinki Commission's high standard of quality tends to obscure the limitations in its scope and reach. While it is difficult to measure quantifiably the opportunities thus lost, those of us in the human rights community can attest that the success of your work demands greater resources. No other institution can match the Helsinki Commission. It would seem incumbent on the Congress to strengthen your ability to expand the staff, which is your most precious resource.

THE BOBBY STEPHEN ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

HON. JOHN E. SUNUNU

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an annual New Hampshire event and the man who hosts it—the Bobby Stephen St. Patrick's Day Celebration. Today marks the 20th anniversary of this Manchester, NH gathering hosted by Bobby, a former State Senator and current Deputy Executive Director of the New Hampshire Job Training Council.

Over the past two decades, Bobby's generous spirit has turned this well-loved and well-attended annual event into an opportunity to give back to his community and his state. For the second consecutive year, he will be donating the entire proceeds from today's celebration to the Jobs for NH Graduates Program, a program for at-risk teens sponsored by the New Hampshire Job Training Council.

This award-winning program is a school-to-career transition program which teaches young people how to look for, find, and keep a job. Currently in place at 30 New Hampshire high schools, the program has served more than 5,000 young people in its ten-year history. It offers students the opportunity to improve their grades, learn about different careers, and serve their communities.

A modest list of the students' achievements includes volunteering to transport donated food from a local store to the Manchester Soup Kitchen, organizing a student job fair at Manchester Central High School, presenting an evening of entertainment to elderly residents at the Hunt Community Center in Nashua, serving as mentors for elementary school children in Newport, and volunteering time at a Red Cross blood drive in Concord.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Bobby Stephen for his commitment and contributions to New

Hampshire's youth. His goals and effort are an example for all of us that show how giving back to your community can make a difference for so many. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CONGRATULATIONS TO AL HARRINGTON, A TRUE CHAMPION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating an outstanding young man, Al Harrington of St. Patrick High School in Elizabeth, New Jersey, who was named The Gatorade Circle of Champions National High School Boys Basketball Player of the Year. This prestigious award honors not only athletic excellence, but also academic achievement.

We in New Jersey are very proud of this gifted young man, who has distinguished himself both on and off the court. The newspaper USA Today ranks St. Patrick as the Number 9 team in the nation. Al is averaging 25 points per game, along with 15 rebounds, 3.5 assists, and 3 blocked shots. A three-time All-Stater and a pre-season All-American choice, he will be playing in a variety of post-season All-Star games.

Al is following in a proud tradition. New Jersey boasts four winners of this national award—Claudio Reyna of St. Benedict's, Kris Durham of Scotch Plains, and Willie Banks of Jersey City, now with the New York Yankees.

Al maintains a 3.1 grade point average and has performed well on the Scholastic Assessment Test. He is a well-rounded young man who is involved in a variety of extracurricular activities and volunteer work. He held a starring role in the school play Annie Get Your Gun, he sings in the school choir, volunteers in a local hospital, and works with grammar school youngsters.

Mr. Speaker, Al Harrington is a young man with a bright future who embodies the very best qualities of today's youth. I know my colleagues join me in expressing our congratulations and best wishes to him as well as to the other St. Patrick's players and their dedicated coach, Kevin Boyle.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE IN KANSAS CITY, MO

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Kansas City, Missouri. The second largest parade in the country, Kansas City represents the best of the tradition of the Irish. Started by local radio personality Mike Murphy in 1973, the celebration now includes families, community and school groups, civic and labor organizations representing the greater Kansas City metropolitan area.

The parade has become one of the largest in America because of the dedication and

commitment of the Irish community. The traditions of celebrating the history and lineage of the families of Ireland have become ingrained in our community. Generations after generation continue the reminder of the importance of St. Patrick's Day.

From a small crew and a block long parade to the success of today's 100,000 plus participants, Kansas City demonstrates the values of keeping tradition alive. I enjoy the parade and all of the community cheer and enthusiasm. This morning the excitement was captured for the nation on ABC's "Good Morning America" program. Even on a cold and dreary day, Kansas City's St. Patrick's Day Parade brings the shining Irish pride of all of us to light.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the 25th Anniversary of Kansas City's St. Patrick's Day Parade and the excitement it has brought to our community and its residents through the hard work and determination of the Irish community of my district.

PRESERVE CRITICAL DATA IN THE 2000 CENSUS

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution expressing the Sense of the Congress that the 2000 Census should continue to collect demographic and socioeconomic data to promote sound decision making.

On March 31, 1997, the Census Bureau submitted to Congress the subject matters for questions on the long form. The long form is sent to one in six households. Its questions will provide the only accurate and reliable source of demographic, social and economic data about our population and housing. The Census Bureau will collect only data that is specifically required by law or a Federal court for the implementation of programs or the allocation of Federal funds; the Bureau has dropped its 1990 questions that have no explicit statutory justification.

The public sector relies on Census long form data. Federal agencies must have the information collected by the Census Bureau on the long form in order to administer federal programs. They also need this information to ensure that programs are inclusive, representative, and serve the needs of local populations. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights needs the data to monitor discrimination based on national origin.

Beyond the federal government, the largest non-federal users of long form information are local governments. The National Association of Counties adopted a resolution calling for a census long form "to provide the useful demographic information necessary to guide our country into the 21st century." In addition, state, county, and municipal agencies; educators and human service providers; researchers; and political leaders all rely long form data. Members of Congress depend on accurate information. The questions on the long form give us insight into our communities, our transportation and infrastructure, our housing, and our ethnic constituencies.

The private sector is a secondary, but important, beneficiary of long form data. Census

data promote economic stability and growth in every sector of our economy. Retail, services, communications, and manufacturing companies rely on this data to allocate resources and develop investment strategies; to determine the location of new stores and plants; to assess the need for job training, educational, and child care programs; and to meet customer needs and preferences. Transportation providers use census data to assess the need for roads, highways, and transit systems. The housing industry relies on census data to gauge housing conditions, predict loan demand, and improve and expand housing in under-served markets. The private sector could not possibly replicate the information in the census.

We must send a message to those involved in the 2000 Census—the Congress, the Census Bureau, and the Administration—that we must preserve the long form, the only tool that gives us a comprehensive picture of who we are as a nation.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, this week it was publicly disclosed that former Wisconsin Senator William Proxmire has Alzheimer Disease. Senator Proxmire, who had a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Senate, is a friend and mentor to me and many other Wisconsin citizens.

Yet, he will probably be best remembered not for what he did in the Senate but by how he got here. Senator Proxmire was famous for his efforts to shake the hands of as many citizens of Wisconsin as possible, standing hours on end at the State Fair and outside the Green Bay Packers games.

One year Senator Proxmire spent a total of \$184 on his reelection campaign! Can you imagine a Senator spending only \$184 on his reelection in today's political climate?

Next week, I hope we will remember my friend and mentor, Senator William Proxmire, as we debate campaign finance reform. His example should make our decision easy.

INTRODUCING THE COLLEGE TUITION REDUCTION AND INFORMATION ACT OF 1997

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague from California, Mr. McKEON, in introducing the College Tuition Reduction and Information Act.

In today's technology and information based economy, getting a high quality postsecondary education is more important than ever. For many Americans, it will be the key to the American dream. Historically, higher education prices have increased at roughly the rate of inflation. However, since the early 1980's, college tuition has spiraled at a rate of two-to-three times that of inflation every year. Ac-

cording to a report released by the General Accounting Office (GAO), between 1980-1981 and 1994-1995, tuition at 4-year public colleges and universities increased 234 percent, while median household income rose 82 percent, and the consumer price index rose only 74 percent.

Over the past year, I have held hearings across the country as my Committee worked to update and improve the Higher Education Act. One consistent theme I have heard from parents and students where ever I went was the reality that paying for college is a huge financial burden, and that for some, a college education will soon be out of reach. It is alarming to me that, at a time when the higher education programs under my Committee's jurisdiction provide roughly \$40 billion per year in student financial aid, parents and students tell me they cannot afford to pay the college bills. It is clear to me, as it is to anyone that has ever sent a child to college, that college is too expensive.

This trend in college pricing is especially alarming in that it only seems to apply to higher education. There are many other endeavors and many businesses that must keep pace with changing technologies and federal regulations. However, in order to stay affordable to their customers and stay competitive in the market, they manage to hold cost increases to a more moderate level.

That is why I'm joining my colleagues today in introducing this important legislation to implement a number of the recommendations of the Commission on the Cost of Higher Education. It is time that we all did something to control college costs. I want to ensure my colleagues and families across the country that I will continue to work hard to see that every American has access to a quality postsecondary education at an affordable price. This legislation will provide a needed step in that direction.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and to cosponsor the College Tuition Reduction and Information Act.

MEMBERS CRITICIZE CROATIAN GOVERNMENT IN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of a letter to President Clinton expressing the deep concern of members about the Croatian government's authoritarian and non-democratic actions. Because the United States is sending financial aid to Croatia we must monitor the situation. I am inserting a copy of this letter along with a translation of a related March 13, 1998 Voice of America broadcast.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

Washington, DC 20515

Hon. WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON,
President of the United States,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the Croatian government's continued pattern of intolerance toward the basic freedoms of political expression, a free press, and civil liberties. While we expected that the transition